



WILDLIFE HABITAT CANADA 2011-2012 ANNUAL REPORT



Celebrating Over 25 Years of Wildlife Habitat Conservation

Without habitat, there is no wildlife... it's that simple!



**Wildlife Habitat Canada's Charitable Registration Number:
11929 8131 RR0001**

TO CONTACT US

To learn more about Wildlife Habitat Canada's programs, or to make a donation, please contact us at the information below.

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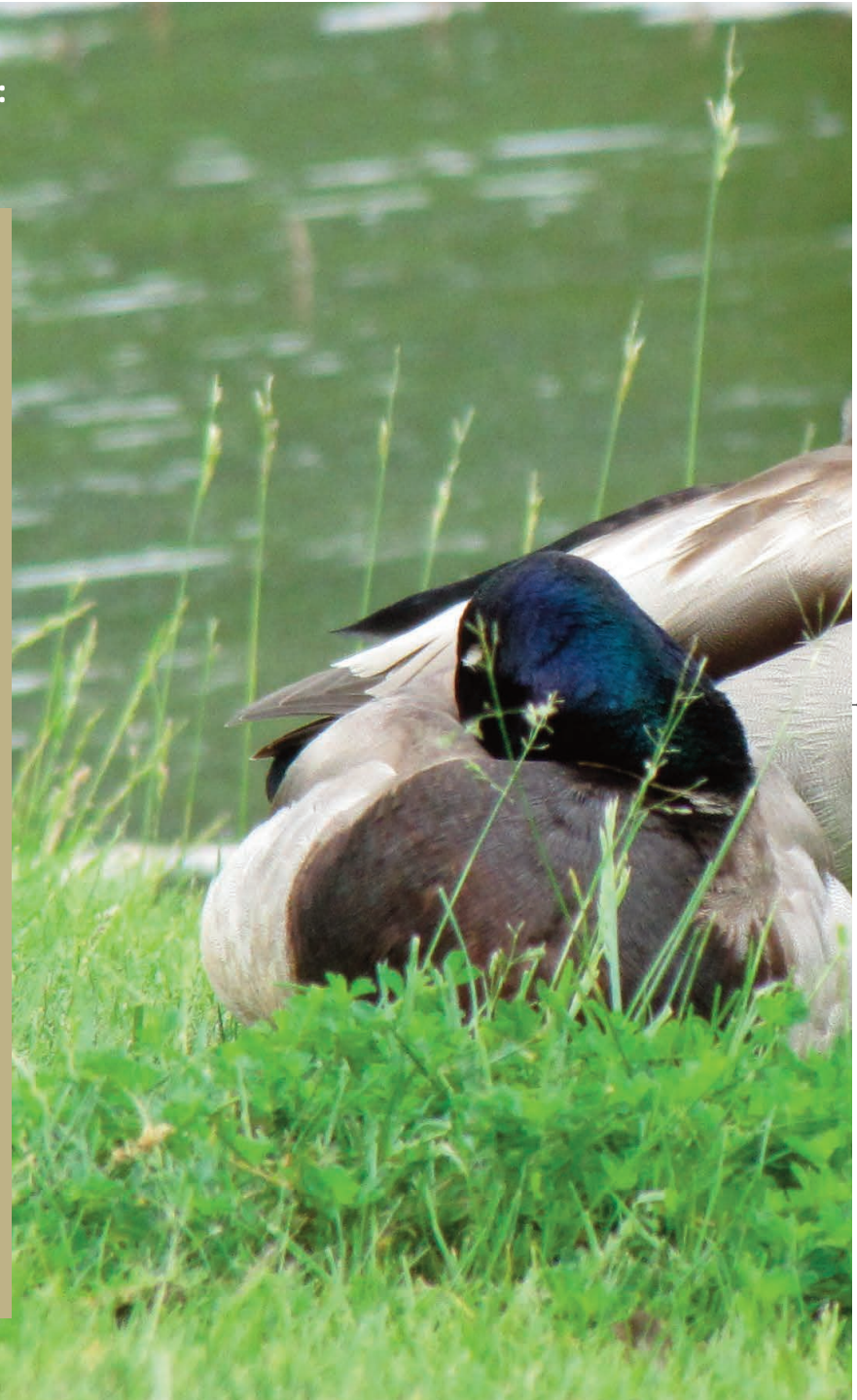
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All donations to Wildlife Habitat Canada are tax deductible and detailed financial statements are available upon request.

The report cover features the 2011 Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp Image "Along the Edgewater - American Wigeon" by W. Allan Hancock.

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THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF WILDLIFE HABITAT CANADA FOR 2011-2012

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About Wildlife Habitat Canada

Wildlife Habitat Canada is a national, non-profit, charitable conservation organization which was established in 1984. We work through partnerships with communities, landowners, governments, non-government organizations, and industry to find effective solutions to address problems facing wildlife habitat.

Our objectives are to:

- Promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of wildlife habitat in order to retain the diversity, distribution and abundance of wildlife;
- Provide a funding mechanism for wildlife habitat conservation programs in Canada;
- Foster coordination and leadership in the conservation community across Canada.



Photo: J. Thompson

Above: Wood Duck Brood

Without habitat, there is no wildlife... it's that simple!

Message from the Chair and President

This year marked the twenty-seventh annual Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp and the third annual Canadian Youth Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp. W. Allan Hancock's award winning stamp image entitled "Along the Edgewater – American Wigeon" and Carson Visser's winning image "Curious Visitor – Barred Owl" were wonderful pieces to continue the tradition of bridging art, conservation and the human condition.

The 2011-2012 Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp Program provided approximately \$1.2 million for grants to 26 projects. This funding leveraged almost \$7.35 million in additional partner revenue to help conserve 494,420 acres of wildlife habitat right across Canada.

On August 27, 2011, Wildlife Habitat Canada was honoured with the first ever Wetland Champion Award in Ontario. Ducks Unlimited Canada awarded WHC with this designation at Atocas Bay, Ontario for the contribution of \$2 million to Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC), with \$835,000 directly going towards wetland conservation projects in Ontario. It was an honour to receive this award from DUC as they have been one of our most valued partners since our inception in 1984.

The Board of Directors welcomed two new Board Members in 2011-2012: Eric Boysen, Director of the Biodiversity Branch/Renewable Energy Program for the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources; and Henry Murkin, National Director of Conservation for Ducks Unlimited Canada.

For the support they have provided over the past year, Wildlife Habitat Canada would like to extend a genuine thank you to the hunting community, our financial supporters and our conservation partners.

Kevin Harris
Chairman
Wildlife Habitat Canada
Board of Directors



Len Ugarenko
President
Wildlife Habitat Canada



(Annemarie Grudén Photography)

Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamps and Limited Edition Prints

The image for the Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp and Limited Edition Print is produced each year by a selected Canadian wildlife artist. The conservation stamp is purchased primarily by waterfowl hunters to validate their Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit. It is also sold to collectors and individuals interested in contributing to the conservation of wildlife habitat.

The Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp was created as, and continues to be, a visible reminder of the reason habitat conservation is important – to conserve Canadian wildlife!



W. Allan Hancock
2011 Canadian Wildlife
Habitat Conservation
Stamp and Print Artist

Photo: Taryn Hancock



2011 Print Image



2011 Stamp Image

2011 Conservation Stamp and Limited Edition Print

The 2011 Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp and Limited Edition Print feature the image “Along the Edgewater - American Wigeon” by wildlife artist W. Allan Hancock of Comox Valley, British Columbia.



2011 Lapel Pin

Based on the image “Along the Edgewater - American Wigeon”



Patricia Pepin
2012 Canadian Wildlife
Habitat Conservation Stamp and Print Artist

"Blue-winged teals often let you get near enough to appreciate their beauty and elegance. I chose to paint a small group, browsing the water for tasty tidbits, around a red pine branch overhanging the pond. It is also an important element of the painting's composition."



2012 Print Image
"Evening Repose - Blue-winged Teal"

2012 Conservation Stamp and Limited Edition Print

The 28th Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp image was created by Patricia Pepin of Bromont, Quebec. Patricia's image, "Evening Repose - Blue-winged Teal", was released on April 1, 2012.

To view or purchase Wildlife Habitat Canada stamp and print products, please visit our website at <http://whc.org/en/online-store>.



2012 Stamp Image
"Evening Repose - Blue-winged Teal"



Canadian Youth Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp

Healthy Wildlife Habitat = Healthy Youth = A Healthy Future for All

Wildlife Habitat Canada is thrilled to congratulate 14 year old Carson Visser from Ontario for being selected as the winning artist for the third Canadian Youth Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp.

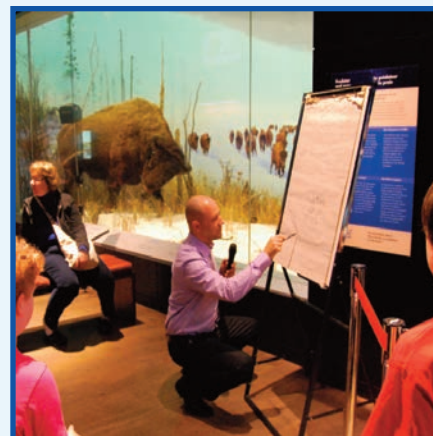
In addition to having his artwork featured on the Youth Stamp, Carson's image was also featured on the cover of the 2012 Robert Bateman, Canadian Wildlife Federation Get to Know Contest Calendar.

Carson's oil painting, entitled "Curious Visitor", depicts a Barred Owl in its natural habitat.

A separate grant program, dedicated to youth and wildlife conservation, will be established based on the sale of the Canadian Youth Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp and corporate partnerships. Projects supported through this grant program will engage youth in out-of-door activities in an effort to foster deeper connections with nature.

For more information on the Youth Stamp and how you can get involved in the program, or to purchase a Youth Stamp, please email youthstamp@whc.org.

2012 Canadian Youth Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp
"Curious Visitor" by Carson Visser.



W. Allan Hancock leads a sketching exercise.

2011 Get to Know Contest Launch

Wildlife Habitat Canada, along with the Canadian Museum of Nature, hosted the launch of the 2011 Robert Bateman Canadian Wildlife Federation Get to Know Contest on April 21, 2011 at the Museum in Ottawa.

In addition to W. Allan Hancock, the artist behind the 2011 Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp, the event featured several guest speakers from various conservation organizations, including: Parks Canada, the Canadian Wildlife Federation, Girl Guides of Canada, the Canadian Museum of Nature, and the Canadian Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

Thirty students from St. Francis Xavier High School were in attendance to hear Mr. Hancock speak about how nature inspires his artwork, as well as participate in a sketching exercise. The students also had the opportunity to watch a presentation about the impact of habitat loss on wildlife from the Earth Rangers.

Supporting Hunters

Wildlife Habitat Canada supported conservation and hunting organizations during the 2011-2012 program year by donating Mentor Lapel Pins and Conservation Edition Prints to help raise money, as well as promote hunting and habitat conservation across Canada.

2011 Mentor Lapel Pin

The Mentor Pin Program was very successful again this year. Wildlife Habitat Canada provided over 1,300 Mentor Lapel Pins to organizations to distribute as gifts to thank their volunteer mentors. These pins were distributed across Canada for numerous events. Wildlife Habitat Canada is proud to support organizations that are encouraging a new generation of hunters.



Photo: Delta Waterfowl Foundation



2011 Brandon Manitoba Youth Hunt Group Photo

Photo: Lethbridge College



2011 Lethbridge College Mentored Hunt Group Photo

Photo: Delta Waterfowl Foundation



2011 Delta Marsh Women's Hunt

Conservation Edition Prints

In 2011-2012, Wildlife Habitat Canada was pleased to donate Conservation Edition Prints and Stamps to the organizations listed below. These donations help organizations raise funds to further support education and conservation efforts.

Wildlife Habitat Canada receives donation requests from a multitude of organizations annually, for events such as banquets, auctions and silent auctions, golf tournaments, youth education events and raffles, to name a few.

- Ador-A-Bull Dog Rescue
- BC Wildlife Federation
- Canadian Wildlife Federation
- Central Lake Ontario Conservation
- Community Living North Grenville
- Conseil International de la Chasse et de la Conservation du Gibier
- Ducks Unlimited Canada Comox Chapter
- Ducks Unlimited Canada Hampton Chapter
- Ducks Unlimited Toronto Committee
- Durham Children's Groundwater Festival
- Fondation pour la Sauvegarde de la Truite Mouchetée
- Fraser River Discovery Centre
- Fur Institute of Canada

Common Mergansers

Photo: N. Lambrechts

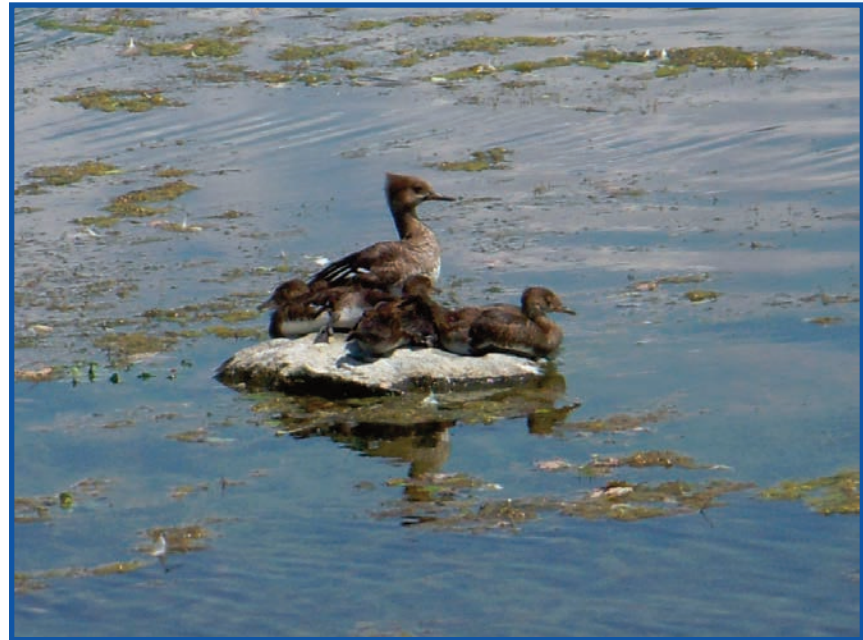




Photo: J. Thompson

- Get to Know
- Magnotta Winery Corporation
- Manitoba Junior Rifle Committee
- Marsh Quest - East Elgin Secondary School
- Model Forest
- National Wild Turkey Federation
- Nature Conservancy of Canada
- North Gower Co-operative Nursery School
- Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters
- Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
- Ontario Forestry Association
- Outdoor Writers of Canada
- Souris and Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation
- United Way
- Western Arms Outdoors Club

If your organization would like to learn more about these programs, please email admin@whc.org.



Hunters' Contributions to Habitat Conservation

Wildlife Habitat Canada would like to acknowledge and thank the hunting community for their valuable contributions to wildlife habitat conservation. In addition to purchasing the Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp to validate their annual Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit, they pay other license fees which directly support wildlife management. Many attend conservation fundraising dinners and activities, as well as volunteer on committees and projects benefitting wildlife.

The general public needs to understand that hunting today is just as much a wildlife management tool as it is a recreational activity. For example, recent studies have shown that in some places in North America where there is an over abundance of wildlife, such as white-tailed deer, they are viewed as a nuisance. What this means is eventually wildlife



Photo: Ducks Unlimited Canada

2011 DUC Woodlands Sporting Clays Shoot: Chris Benson presents Kerry Coleman with the WHC 2010 Stamp and Print. Kerry was recognized for his involvement in the mentored hunt program and his dedication to getting youth involved in waterfowl and the shooting sports.

loses its intrinsic value as people separate themselves from nature.

We are seeing an extension of this with an entire generation of children who spend more time indoors watching television and playing computer games than they do playing outside. Some studies have demonstrated that these children are suffering from what has been coined as “nature deficit” disorder. Basically, they have no connection to the natural world and lack an understanding of why maintaining healthy wildlife populations and their habitat are important.

Since children are the future and will eventually be responsible for our wildlife and other natural resources, it is vital they learn that we too are a part of nature and our well-being is directly tied to how we manage the environment.

Many organizations and individuals conduct youth mentoring programs. It should be noted that these programs go well beyond the various aspects of hunting. They also teach youth about the importance of terrestrial and aquatic habitat conservation, species diversity, biodiversity, social and self-disciplinary skills, to name a few.

By educating young people about the need to maintain the quality of wildlife habitat, we will ensure that future generations, including non-hunters, will enjoy the abundance of wildlife species that we have today.



Photo: Delta Waterfowl Foundation

Delta Marsh Youth Hunt: Mentor, Brent Poole, teaches his son how to properly clean waterfowl.

Highlights of Accomplishments for Grants in 2011-2012

The 2011-2012 Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp Program provided 26 grants totalling approximately \$1,278,715. This funding leveraged almost \$7.4 million in additional revenue to help conserve 494,420 acres (200,084.7 hectares) of wildlife habitat across Canada.



Prince Edward Island

Wetland Restoration/Construction Projects on Prince Edward Island's Agricultural Landscape

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$30,000 to Ducks Unlimited Canada.

- Project accomplishments:
 - Worked with landowners to create 14 wetland restoration/construction projects on PEI's agricultural landscape.
 - 14 stewardship agreements were signed for 15 year terms.
 - Restored 15.6 acres (6.31 hectares) of wetland habitat and protected 21.7 acres (8.78 hectares) of upland habitat.
 - Distributed 30 applications and information brochures to farmers for the CPEIASP.
 - 30 volunteers attended a presentation on the agricultural program and its success in PEI.
 - Display booths were set up at events to promote wetland restoration in the agricultural landscape.

Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia Eastern Habitat Joint Venture (NS-EHJV) Wetland Stewardship Program

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$70,000 to the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources – Wildlife Division.

Normandy Marsh

- Project accomplishments:
 - 14 farms were assessed for Agricultural Biodiversity



Conservation (ABC) Plan delivery, influencing 2,636.61 acres (1,067 hectares) of wetland/upland habitat.

Photo: Ducks Unlimited Canada

Photo: Ducks Unlimited Canada



- 15 follow up visits were made to past (ABC) Plan participants.
- A pilot project was developed with the Bluenose Coastal Active Foundation (BCAF) to expand delivery of ABC Plans.
- A partnership was formed with the Dalhousie University School of Resource and Environmental Studies to evaluate the effectiveness of the (ABC) Plans to agricultural producers and how to improve project delivery.
- The NS-EHJV Stewardship Coordinator was involved in 10 community events to promote wetland biodiversity conservation stewardship throughout the province.

Bon Portage Island Conservation Project

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$40,000 to the Nova Scotia Nature Trust.

- Project accomplishments:
 - The Bon Portage Island Committee met regularly to develop and refine the terms and conditions of the conservation easement, which protects: 300 acres (121.41 hectares) of at-risk coastal habitat; 7,000 metres of shoreline; habitat for breeding birds and migrating shorebirds, songbirds, waterfowl and raptors.
 - The first phase of the Bon Portage Island baseline report and long term management plan were developed.
 - Promotional, educational and fundraising materials were developed to engage the community in the project.
 - An easement was drafted to protect the rights of Acadia and the Nature Trust to undertake ecological/wildlife research and education in perpetuity.

Photo: R. Newell,
NS Dept. of Natural Resources



A densely vegetated riparian area adjacent to a still water in the agricultural landscape near Windsor, NS.

Photo: Nova Scotia Nature Trust



Nova Scotia Nature Trust supporters visiting Bon Portage Island.



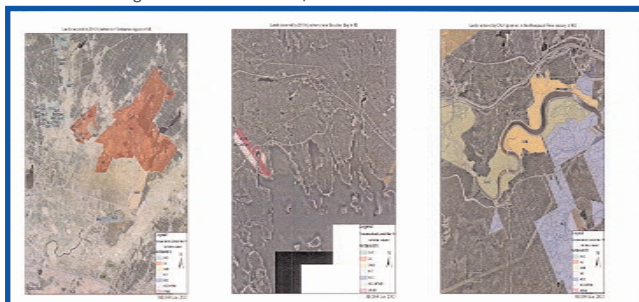
New Brunswick

Quantifying NBEHJV conserved habitats contributions to NAWMP and NABCI goals and objectives, and ii. New Brunswick Marsh Monitoring Pilot Project

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$24,000 to the New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources.

- Project accomplishments:
 - A spatially mapped wildlife habitat profile was integrated into the conserved habitats GIS database for all NBEHJV partner land holdings for use in conservation and land use planning activities.
 - A spatial analysis of provincial wildlife habitats and forest communities was completed by ecodistrict.
 - The NB Marsh Monitoring Program Pilot Project was designed. A sensitivity analysis was completed on the current Wetland Habitat Matrix, data was analyzed on species-wetland habitat relationships and literature research was completed.

Image: New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources



Examples of land holdings acquired for conservation by Eastern Habitat Joint Venture partners in New Brunswick and used in the analysis.



Newfoundland & Labrador

Newfoundland and Labrador Eastern Habitat Joint Venture Coastal and Inland Freshwater Wetlands Stewardship and Conservation

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$28,500 to the NL Department of Environment and Conservation, Wildlife Division.

- Project accomplishments:
 - 2 stewardship agreements were signed at public signing ceremonies in the Towns of Steady Brook and Deer Lake, securing 873 acres (353.29 hectares) of wetland and associated upland habitat.
 - 11 meetings were held with separate town councils to explore interest in signing a municipal stewardship agreement.
 - Field assessments and mapping were conducted in 13 separate municipalities to determine potential sites for conservation efforts.
 - 4 youth education events were held in municipalities with signed stewardship agreements (attendance total: 250 participants).

Photo: Heather Chaffey



Stewardship Biologist Jessica Humber conducting field work in Deer Lake.



Murre Conservation Fund

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided grants to two Newfoundland & Labrador Murre Conservation Fund Projects.

- Project accomplishments:
 - Newfoundland and Labrador Murre Hunter Stewardship and Education (\$18,000)
 - 3 hunter education and outreach events were held.
 - Wharf interpretive signage was produced and installed in the 3 towns that participated in outreach events.
 - Engaging Local Stakeholders in the Stewardship of Murres and Important Bird Areas in Labrador (\$7,500)
 - A directory of organizations and departments involved in monitoring and surveying at IBAs for murres and other species in Labrador was produced and distributed.
 - An engagement strategy was developed and discussions were held with partners.
 - Caretakers for several IBA sites were identified. Meetings were held with priority local governments and organizations to explain the Caretaker program and assess local interest.



Illustration: C. Colosimo; Provided by Intervale Associates Inc.

Information and outreach product for seabirds and IBAs in Labrador.

Placemats were distributed to family oriented restaurants and organizations along the Labrador North and South coasts, the Labrador Straits, and Central Labrador.



Québec

Protection of Forested Wetlands - Eastern Habitat Joint Venture

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$40,000 to the Fondation de la faune du Québec.

- Project accomplishments:
 - 54 forested wetlands, a total of 133.4 acres (53.99 hectares), were inventoried.
 - 42 wetlands totalling 1,361.6 acres (551.02 hectares) were monitored to ensure long term protection.
 - 73 statements of intent were signed to protect 1,070 acres (433.01 hectares) of forested wetlands.
 - Outreach tools were developed to educate landowners about conservation activities and encourage them to play a role in protecting wetlands.

Photo: Fondation de la faune du Québec



Chaudière-Appalaches

Lavallière Bay

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$80,000 to Ducks Unlimited Canada.

- Project accomplishments:
 - A plan outline was drafted to improve agricultural water quality and reduce sediment load.
 - A cost estimate was received from Hydro-Québec to establish the power line needed to provide power to a pumping station.
 - Restored 289 acres (116.95 hectares) of wetland habitat and conserved 242 acres (97.93 hectares) of upland habitat.
 - The management plan for this project was broadened in the Winter of 2011 to add an ichthyological component.



Photo: Ducks Unlimited Canada

Aerial view of the project area.

Protection of the wetlands in the Outaouais valley, in the Bristol and Clarendon areas, Phase III

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$20,000 to Nature Conservancy of Canada.

- Project accomplishments:
 - 9 hunting agreements were signed with individuals or groups of hunters: 1,586.4 acres (641.99 hectares) of land covered under three renewed agreements and 1,532.1 acres (620.02 hectares) of land covered under six new agreements.
 - 4 information meetings were held in Bristol and Clarendon.
 - Advised Bristol City Council and landowners on how to best manage beaver dams for the conservation of wetlands, visiting 14 properties.
 - Waste removal was conducted in the Bristol area. 10 trailers worth of garbage was removed.

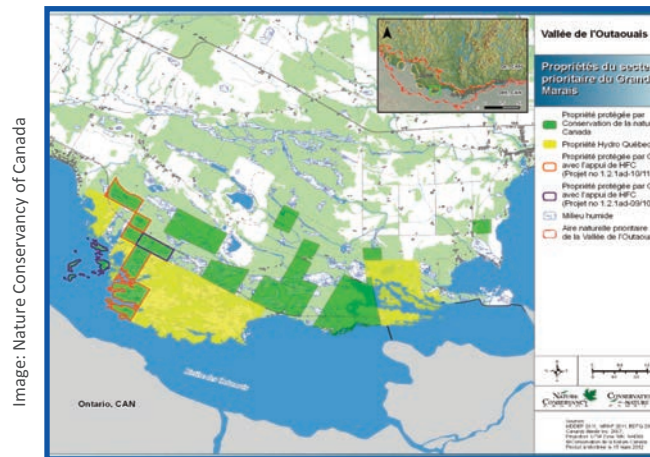


Image: Nature Conservancy of Canada

Map of NCC property locations in the Bristol area.

Protection of the wetlands and natural area of Lac Champlain, Québec

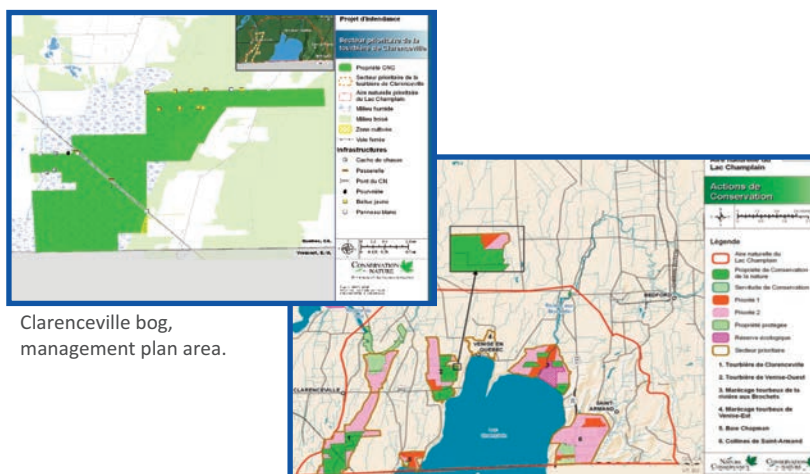


Ontario

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$50,000 to Nature Conservancy of Canada.

- Project accomplishments:
 - Ecological characterization, including detailed inventories of waterfowl and habitat, was completed for 3 properties at a total of 185.3 acres (74.99 hectares).
 - Eight renewal agreements, which include inspection reports and monitoring, were signed with hunters who are using NCC protected properties in target sectors.
 - A baseline report was completed for a 111.2 acre (45.0 hectares) property.
 - A management plan was developed for the Reynolds site, covering 110.9 acres (44.88 hectares).
 - Management plans were completed for Clarenceville bog (564.9 acres / 228.61 hectares), Pike River (289.3 acres / 117.08 hectares) and West Venice bog (564.9 acres / 228.61 hectares).

Image: Nature Conservancy of Canada



Clarenceville bog, management plan area.

Map of 4 significant wetlands in the Lake Champlain area.

Image: Nature Conservancy of Canada

Southern Ontario Priority Wetland Habitat

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$200,000 to Ducks Unlimited Canada.

- Project accomplishments:
 - A total of 1,349 acres (545.92 hectares) of habitat were restored and/or protected.
 - 9 pair pond projects were completed and 9 agreements were signed, protecting 199.83 acres (80.87 hectares) of wetland and upland habitat.
 - 8 agreements were signed, protecting 354.71 acres (143.55 hectares) of brood habitat.
 - 1 nest box project and 2 agreements were signed, protecting 632.9 acres (256.13 hectares) of high quality upland and cavity nesting habitat.
 - Repairs were made to 5 aging water control structures and 5 agreements were re-signed, protecting 161.69 acres (65.43 hectares) of wetland and upland habitat.



Holst Durham Project

Photo: Ducks Unlimited Canada

Community Stream Steward Program: Waterfowl Habitat Initiative

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$41,315 to the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters-Community Stream Steward Program.

- Project accomplishments:
 - 62 educational site visits were completed with landowners, conserving 766 acres (309.99 hectares) of wetland and riparian habitat.
 - 4 Stream Steward Training Workshops were held, conserving 420 acres (169.97 hectares) of wetland and riparian habitat.
 - A new brochure was produced and 1,000 copies were distributed.
 - 28 habitat restoration plans were developed, which will result in the enhancement of 1,136.7 acres (460.01 hectares) of waterfowl habitat.
 - 4,688 meters of cattle exclusion fencing was installed.



Photo: Community Stream Steward Program

Habitat use, migratory behaviour, and vital rates of Sandhill Cranes (*Grus*

canadensis) on the North Shore of Lake Huron, Ontario

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$20,000 to Long Point Waterfowl.

- Project accomplishments:
 - Regional roost surveys were coordinated and executed: 5,216 cranes were counted between October 3-6, 2011.
 - Roost use estimates were used to analyze and model roost-specific features. Preliminary findings: mean foraging flight distances from roost sites, proximity to dwellings and roads, proximity to feeding sites.
 - Food depletion curve was calculated for the study area during autumn migration. Asymptote of depletion curve correlated extremely well with peak departure date.
 - Recorded 40+ hours of behavioural data and calculated energy expenditure for juveniles and adults, which will be analyzed in compilation with food depletion data.



Two researchers from Long Point Waterfowl record morphometric measurements from an adult Eastern Population Sandhill Crane caught with a rocket net as part of a study of migratory ecology at Manitoulin Island, ON.

Sandhill Crane



Photos: Everett Hanna, 2010

Leeds Community Pasture Riparian Restoration

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$10,000 to the Leeds County Stewardship Council.

- Project accomplishments:
 - Installed 1,500 meters of wildlife-friendly, durable cedar rail cattle-exclusion fencing.
 - Installed one bed level water crossing.
 - Volunteers and local students planted 3,000 trees and shrubs along stream banks.
 - Leeds-Grenville Stewardship Council education programs provided educational opportunities to 1500 students.



Above: A portion of the 1,500 meters of cedar rail cattle exclusion fencing that was installed.

Left: Students planting native trees and shrubs within the fenced riparian area.

Photos: Leeds County Stewardship Council

Long Point Waterfowl's Youth Hunting & Wildlife Heritage Workshop

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$5,000 to Long Point Waterfowl.

- Project accomplishments:
 - Over six days, twenty youth aged 12-16 participated in the Ontario Hunter Safety and Canadian Firearms Training. The youth learned about Canada's waterfowling heritage by participating in various hands-on activities, such as duck decoy and blind placement, retriever training, taxidermy and wild game cooking. Each participant was mentored by several wildlife professionals on the importance of hunting with respect to wildlife, habitat conservation and management.



Above: Youth Hunting and Heritage Workshop participants practice calling "the shot" in layout blinds.



Right: Youth Hunting and Heritage Workshop participants learn about decoy placement.

Photos: Long Point Waterfowl

Canadian Museum of Nature Partnership
Wildlife Habitat Canada contributed \$5,000 to the Canadian Museum of Nature. The Museum promotes the Canadian Youth Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp and the Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp and also provides a venue for Wildlife Habitat Canada's Annual Stamp Art Competition, the Robert Bateman Canadian Wildlife Federation Get to Know Contest launch and the January Board of Directors meeting.

Prairies: Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba

The Prairie & Parkland Marsh Monitoring Program: developing spatially-explicit models to improve habitat conservation and management for wetland-associated birds within the Prairie Habitat Joint Venture delivery area

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$60,000 to Bird Studies Canada.

- Project accomplishments:
 - Staff and volunteers conducted 2,191 bird surveys at 617 stations within 27 study sites (AB 10; SK 17).
 - 13 new sites were established, bringing the total number of sampled study sites to 61. There was considerable variation among species in which of the species-habitat models were best-supported by the data. For all species observed there was support for more than one model.
 - From 2009 to 2011 more than 6,900 point counts have been made at 1,293 stations within 61 study sites (AB 29; SK 27; MB 5).
 - Data analysis is underway for the production of a report on using automated recording units to survey for wetland-associated birds.

Expanding and Promoting ALUS across Prairie Canada

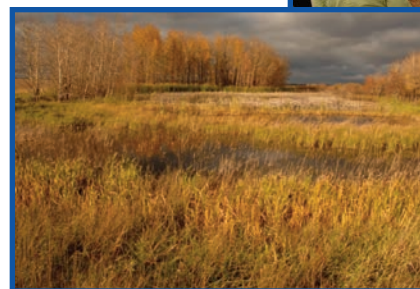
Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$120,000 to Delta Waterfowl Foundation.

- Project accomplishments:
 - Expanded Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) projects to Saskatchewan and Manitoba.
 - ALUS launched in 4 rural municipalities in Saskatchewan.
 - Official ALUS website was launched in December 2011.
 - The County of Vermillion expansion resulted in 10-15 new projects involving 13 landowners.
 - Wetland Habitat: 130 acres (52.61 hectares) conserved, 5 acres (2.02 hectares) enhanced, 15 acres (6.07 hectares) restored.
 - Upland Habitat: 530 acres (214.48 hectares) conserved, 120 acres (48.56 hectares) enhanced, 190 acres (76.89 hectares) restored.

Photos: Delta Waterfowl Foundation



Above: November 2011 tour, Cows and Fish employees. Producer Cliff Driver speaks about his project that includes planting native prairie on uplands containing several prairie potholes.



Left: Semi-permanent wetland in the Saskatchewan ALUS demonstration area.





Manitoba

Scaup Plus: A Wetland Habitat Conservation Initiative

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$90,000 to the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation.

- Project accomplishments:
 - 1,089.73 acres (441 hectares) of Scaup habitat was protected.
 - 2,935.61 acres (1,188 hectares) of waterfowl habitat / NAWMP target landscape was protected.
 - 22 Baseline Documentation Reports were drafted following the documenting and monitoring of habitat condition.
 - 13,894.74 acres (5,623 hectares) of conservation easement areas was monitored.
 - 22 conservation easements were signed, involving 33 landowners.

Photos: Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation



Scaup habitat on Chatsko CE.



Scaup habitat on Ewachewski CE.



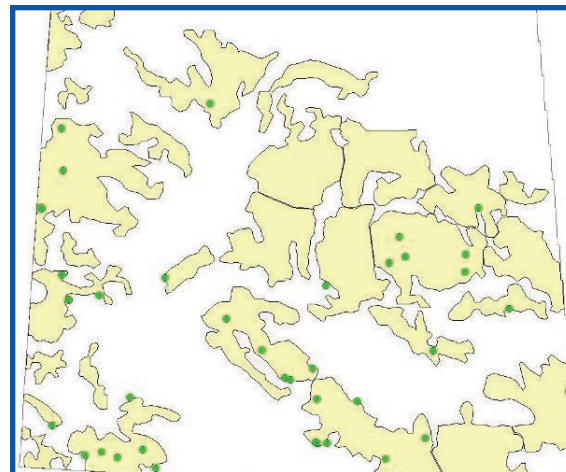
Saskatchewan

Habitat Stewardship in Saskatchewan 2011-2012

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$111,000 to the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority.

- Project accomplishments:
 - 34 conservation agreements were signed for 12 year terms.
 - 7,263 acres (2,939.23 hectares) of cropland was converted to perennial forage.
 - 218 wetland basins were conserved.
 - 34 voluntary stewardship agreements were negotiated.
 - Wetland and drainage inventory was completed on 30 townships, representing approximately 691,200 acres (279,718.72 hectares).

Image: Saskatchewan Watershed Authority



Location of cropland conversion projects within the Saskatchewan NAWMP Target Landscapes.



Alberta

Beltz Lake Extension (Lockerby)

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$53,400 to the Alberta Conservation Association.

- Project accomplishments:
 - Financial contributions from other partners aided in the purchase of a land parcel with significant habitat value.
 - Conserved 37.5 acres (15.18 hectares) of wetland habitat and 278 acres (112.50 hectares) of upland habitat.
 - Constructed twelve nesting structures, including eight tunnels and four boxes.
 - Public hazards were removed from the site and three old gravel pits are being reclaimed.
 - Management plan was completed and a Baseline Inventory was initiated in Fall 2011.

Photos: Andy Murphy



Lockerby site



British Columbia

Phase II of Alvin Indridson (Hope Hill Area) Nature Reserve on Salt Spring Island

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$60,000 to the Salt Spring Island Conservancy.

- Project accomplishments:
 - A 5 year management plan was completed for the enhancement and restoration of 130 acres (52.61 hectares) of upland and wetland habitat.
 - 5.8 km of old logging roads and landings were restored.
 - 15 culverts were removed to restore the flow of streams.
 - 800 kg of garbage and 4 wrecked vehicles were removed from the Reserve.
 - 4 boundary signs were installed at access points to the Reserve.
 - 2.66 km of trail built and marked using reflective paint on tree trunks.

Image: Salt Spring Island Conservancy



Alvin Indridson Nature Reserve boundary sign.

Marion Creek Benchlands Watershed Assessment and Wetland Stewardship Plan

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$20,000 to the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

- Project accomplishments:
 - Cleared 9 acres (3.7 hectares) of invasive cattail growth to restore open wetland benefitting ducks, swans, geese, eagles, hawks and fish.
 - A baseline inventory of ecological units was conducted:
 - 13 ecological units were identified, including 5 wetland/hydro-riparian types;
 - 150 plant species and over 60 species of birds were identified;
 - 4 rare plant species were identified (including 2 wetland species);
 - 1 rare plant community was identified.
 - The Marion Creek watershed assessment was completed.
 - A draft Wetland Stewardship Plan was developed and a Property Management Plan is in progress.
 - 79 acres (31.97 hectares) of wetland habitat and 113 acres (45.73 hectares) of upland habitat were conserved.



Photos: Nature Conservancy of Canada

Left: Example of open water and sedge fen found on Marion Creek.

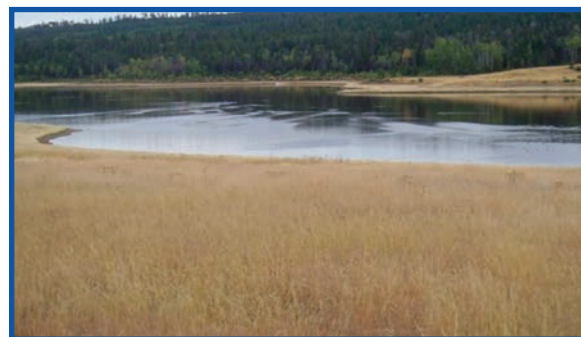
Below: Westslope Cutthroat Trout found on Marion Creek Benchlands. BC Crown Range



Wetland Enhancement Program 2011: Haines Lake Range Restoration Project

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$10,000 to Ducks Unlimited Canada.

- Project accomplishments:
 - 3 km of livestock exclusion fence was installed.
 - A report on Haines Lake Range Agreement Area was completed.
 - A project agreement was signed detailing rangeland management and project values.
 - 113.7 acres (46.01 hectares) of wetland and 1,203.9 acres (487.20 hectares) of upland habitat were restored.



Photos: Ducks Unlimited Canada

Left:
Looking South West
over Haines Lake.



Right:
Looking South over Haines
Lake.



National

Consolidating the National Network of Important Bird Area Caretakers to Conserve Wetlands and Waterfowl in Canada

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$35,000 to Nature Canada.

- Project accomplishments:
 - Planned, coordinated and delivered an IBA regional Caretaker Coordinator workshop.
 - Facilitated the recruitment, networking and communications for Newfoundland-Labrador, PEI and NB regional Caretaker coordination.
 - Newfoundland: Increased awareness of IBA program, conducted a presentation and recruited individuals for IBA Caretakers of 4 IBAs.
 - Labrador: Produced and distributed 10,000 IBA conservation place mats to 34 restaurants. 4 caretaker groups were identified and 4 IBAs were visited.
 - PEI: 6 landowners took on the Caretaker role and 49 volunteers participated in beach clean-up events.
 - NB: Recruited a naturalist club to be the Caretakers for 9 sites. Volunteers visited 4 IBAs and 10 presentations were conducted on Biodiversity Stewardship and IBA sites.



Photo: Nature Canada

The IBA Canada team at Bird Studies Canada's National Headquarters.

National Fish and Wildlife Conservation Congress

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$25,000 to the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters.

- Project accomplishments:
 - Presentation topics, workshops and speakers were finalized.
 - Event programs finalized and produced.
 - Official website was developed.
 - Began accepting participant registrations in January 2012.
 - The Congress took place May 27 to 31, 2012.



The Robert Bateman Canadian Wildlife Federation Get to Know Program

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided \$10,000 to the Get to Know Program to assist with administering the contest. Artwork submitted to the Get to Know contest is used to select the Canadian Youth Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp.



Financial Statements are available upon request.

Our Supporters and Partners



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Through a legislative arrangement with Environment Canada, Wildlife Habitat Canada receives the revenues from the sale of the Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp, purchased primarily by waterfowl hunters to validate their Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permits. Each year, Wildlife Habitat Canada receives this financial support through a contribution agreement with Environment Canada. This endeavour supports Environment Canada's responsibility for the protection and conservation of habitat, particularly for the conservation of waterfowl pursuant to the Migratory Birds Convention Act.

Wildlife Habitat Canada would like to thank the following organizations for their support and partnership of our programs and activities in 2011-2012:

- Alberta Conservation Association
- Algonquin Art Centre
- Bass Pro Shops
- Bird Studies Canada
- Canada Post (philatelic product sales)
- Canadian Business and Biodiversity Council
- Canadian Museum of Nature
- Canadian Wildlife Federation
- Canadian Wildlife Service of Environment Canada
- Delta Waterfowl Foundation
- Ducks Unlimited Canada

- Fondation de la faune du Québec
- Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association
- Intervale Associates
- Land Stewardship Centre of Canada (Alberta)
- Leeds-Grenville Stewardship Council
- Long Point Waterfowl
- Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation
- Manitoba Wildlife Federation
- National Watershed Stewardship Coalition
- Nature Canada
- Nature Conservancy of Canada
- New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources
- Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Environment and Conservation
- Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources
- Nova Scotia Nature Trust
- Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
- Outdoor Writers of Canada
- Parks Canada
- Robert Bateman Canadian Wildlife Federation Get to Know Contest
- Rousseau Timbres et Monnaies à la Baie
- Salt Spring Island Conservancy
- Saskatchewan Watershed Authority
- Stewardship Network of Ontario
- The Lowe-Martin Group
- Trout Unlimited
- Wildlife Habitat Council

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With special thanks to the following volunteers:

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Kaitlan Read
Rebecca Rooke

Canada Geese



Photo: J. Thompson





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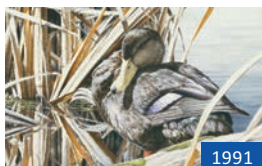
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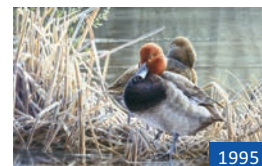
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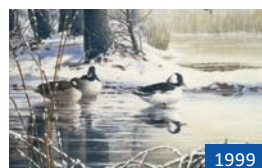
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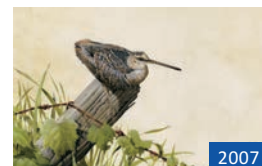
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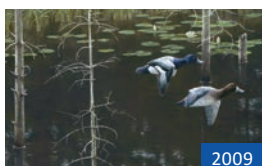
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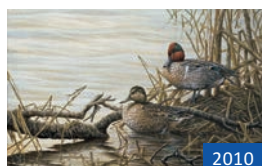
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Patricia Pepin

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